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BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1956



Baldock U.D.C.
Council Offices,
Baldock.
(Telephone: Baldock 3221)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (also Divisional M.O. Herts C.C.)

VICTOR R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,
Divisional Health Office,
12 Brand Street,
Hitchin.
(Telephone: Hitchin 3757)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (also Surveyor).

BRUCE W. E. MAKEPEACE, F.F.S.(Eng)., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.L.E.,
(resigned December, 1956.).

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

RONALD A. D. GATES, M.A.P H.I.

RODENT OPERATOR.

J. REDHOUSE.

BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lewis and Gentlemen,

By direction of Ministry Circular 19/56 I submit a report of the health of the district for the year 1956.

The local vital statistics give a generally favourable picture. The very favourable local death rate of 6.7 again indicates the younger-than-average age distribution and application of the Registrar General's comparability factor (1.32) gives a standardised death rate of 8.7.

The live birth rate this year falls just below the national rate, while the stillbirth and infant death rates when added together approximate closely to the national sum of the two figures.

By direction of the Minister reports on local food inspection, registration of premises, and improvements in food hygiene have been amplified.

I would acknowledge having received during the year every consideration and help from your Council and its officers.

I am, Mrs. Lewis and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

V. R. WALKER.

District Medical Officer of Health

June, 1957.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area of District	...	...	...	...	...	542 acres.
Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1956					...	6,900
Number of separately rated hereditaments at 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	2,137
Number of separate dwellings (included in above figure) at 31st December, 1956			...		...	1,736
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£59,288
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£276,13.4.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1956

		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT</u>	<u>Comparable rates for England & Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	102	55	47		
	(Illegitimate	2	1	1		
		104	56	48		

Rate per 1,000 of the
estimated resident population 15.1 15.7

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	3	-	3		
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-		
		3	-	3		

Rate per 1,000 total (live
and still) births 28.0 23.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	46	29	17		
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Rate per 1,000 of the
estimate resident population 6.7 11.7

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births 19.2 23.8
 Rate for Legit. infants per
 1,000 legitimate births 9.8
 Rate for illegit. infants per
 1,000 illegitimate births 500
 Actual number of such deaths:-

(a) Under 4 weeks and (b) Totals under 1 year

Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

Deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth or abortion	...	...	-
Deaths from Cancer (all sites)	...	...	14
Deaths from Measles	...	...	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	-
Deaths from other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-

Comment on Vital Statistics for the Year

The estimated mid-year population showed a further increase of 190 persons. Live births (104) were 2 less than for 1955 while the figure for deaths (46) was 5 less than that for the previous year.

SECTION B GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

No important change occurred during the year.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply. All premises in the district are provided with a direct piped supply of water, which is treated and supplied in bulk to the Council's Undertaking by the First Garden City Ltd. The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of samples have also been satisfactory.
2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. No change.
3. Rivers and Streams. No change.
4. Closet Accommodation. There was one conversion from chemical closet to watercloset during the year. Only two premises are now without waterclosets and these are situated on the outskirts of the district which is not served by main drainage.
5. Public Cleansing. It has been difficult to maintain a regular collection due to the lack of maintaining staff in this service. A new petrol engined refuse vehicle came into service on the 1st January, and although having a greater cubic capacity than the old vehicle is more economical to run.
6. Caravan Sites. There are two caravan sites within the area for which consents were granted under the Town & Country Planning Act, 1947. One site is within the curtilage of Bondor Ltd., adjacent to their sports field and has provision for six trailer type caravans. There is on the site water closet accommodation and washing facilities for the occupants, together with a piped water supply and facilities for the storage and collection of domestic refuse. This site is well maintained and the general circumstances satisfactory from the sanitary point of view.

The second site is situated in Limekiln Lane and is for 30 caravans and here a sanitation block housing waterclosets and washing facilities is to be provided.
7. Rodent Control. Normal rodent control work and treatment was carried out and only minor infestations were found. All the Council's undertakings received regular attention and the soil sewers were treated in May and November.
8. Sanitary Inspections of the Area (other than Dwellinghouses and food premises).

(a)	Number of inspections carried out under the Factories Act	15
(b)	Number of inspections carried out under the Petroleum Acts	17
(c)	Number of inspections carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage	86
(d)	Number of inspections carried out in connection with water supply and sampling	21
(e)	Miscellaneous inspections	115
(f)	Number of nuisances investigated and dealt with	16
(g)	Number of investigations regarding infectious diseases	2
9. Swimming Bath (Privately owned). During the summer months samples were regularly taken and in all cases the results of bacteriological examinations were satisfactory.
10. Factories and Workplaces. Routine work continued and there is nothing special to report

Council Housing Schemes.

- (a) The scheme of 34 Unity non-traditional houses at Hopewell Road was completed in July.
- (b) Work commenced on the Anchor Field Estate for 105 Gregory traditional type houses in November and by the end of the year the setting out and all house drains and sewers had been completed.
- (c) Four of the eight bungalows for aged persons commenced in May, were completed and occupied at the end of the year.

Private Dwellings.

A total of 14 private dwellings were completed during the year.

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with Section 1 of the 1954 Act, a survey was made to ascertain the number of unfit houses and any other houses which ought to be included in clearance areas. The report on the survey presented to the Council stated that 67 houses had been inspected and they fell into the following groups:-

- (1) 40 houses in areas which could be defined as clearance areas.
- (2) 17 houses which were individually unfit.
- (3) 3 houses which were unfit but which had since been dealt with by the Council.
- (4) 7 houses which were found to be fit for human habitation.

Improvement Grants.

During the year six applications for improvement grant were submitted. One was cancelled and the other five approved. A total of 19 grants have been made since the inception of the scheme in 1949.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	37
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	75
(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	...	...	7
(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under (2) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	25
(4) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices under the Public Health or Housing Acts:-				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners				-
(5) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	...	...	...	7

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (1) There were no special Clean Food Campaigns but food shops and food preparing premises were regularly inspected and opportunity taken to give advice on the clean handling of food to the personnel concerned. The new Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all occupants and in a number of cases informal action taken to bring the premises up to a satisfactory standard.
- (2) The type of food premises are as follows:-

Butchers, 4; cafes, restaurants, snack bars, 7; confectioners, 6; dairies, 1; fishshops, 3; greengrocers and fruiterers, 4; grocers and provision merchants, 4; bakehouses, 4; canteens, 4.
- (3) Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955. Sale and storage of ice cream, 13 (no ice cream is manufactured in the district); manufacture of meat products, 1.
- (4) No food poisoning instances were reported in the year.
- (5) The results of 14 ice cream samples taken were very satisfactory.
- (6) The specified Areas Scheme of 1954 remains in force. Under this, only Designated Milks such as Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised may be sold in the district.

During the year four firms were issued with supplementary licences to retail milk in Baldock from premises elsewhere. There is only one dairy and this is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (7) The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

22 lbs cooked gammon.
19 lbs imported canned meat.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

For the year 1956 totals of notified infectious diseases (after correction) were: Whooping cough 4, Infective hepatitis 2, and Acute pneumonia 1. No case of either Poliomyelitis, Food poisoning, Scarlet fever or Measles was reported during the year and the town can thus be considered to have been exceptionally fortunate.

Diphtheria was again absent from the district during the year. Nevertheless the ~~acceptance~~ of immunisation for protection against this formerly dreaded disease continues to be accepted by a good proportion of parents; for infants under two years the offer of combined immunisation against both diphtheria and whooping cough continued particularly popular.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Deaths during the year 1956

Age Periods	New - Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F	Respiratory M	Respiratory F	Non-Respiratory M	Non-Respiratory F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	3(2)	2(2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	4(3)	6(4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	3(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
and over								
Not known								

Totals: 12(6) 8(6)

1

Deaths allocated by the Registrar
General after final transfers;:....

1

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-

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Note: The figures for new cases include inward transfers from other areas, such numbers being shown in the bracketted figures.

Comment:

New notifications during the year from the local population is seen to number 6 males and 2 females; the figures for the previous year were 2 males and 1 female.

One death (in an elderly male) occurred during the year.

V. R. WALKER

District Medical Officer of Health

July, 1957.

